Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0734

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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TAGS: PBOR PEPR EG IS

SUBJECT: NEW PEACE PROPOSAL

REF: CAIRO 15720

SUMMARY: PRESS JUNE 25 CONTINUES TO BUILD EXPECTATIONS OF DECISIVE NEXT STEPS IN PEACE PROCESS. SADAT "FOR-MALLY REJECTS" ISRAELI ANSWERS; CALLS CARTER'S MESSAGE "SERIOUS ATTEMPT"TO BOOST PEACE PROCESS. SADAT ANNOUNCED EGYPT PREPARING "INTEGRATED PROPOSAL," BASED ON PRESIDENT'S EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR RETURN OF WEST BANK TO JORDAN AND GAZA TO EGYPT, TO BE DELIVERED TO U.S. WITHIN TWO DAYS. PRESS, BASED ON NEWS AGENCIES FROM WASHINGTON CITING "AMERICAN OFFICIALS", REPORT POSSIBILITY OF JULY 9 LONDON MEETING BETWEEN VANCE, DAYAN AND KAMEL. EDITORIALS PORTRAY BEGIN GOVT ON UNCLASSIFIED

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DEFENSIVE WITHIN ISRAEL AND U.S. ARABIC PRESS HAS NO COMMENTARY ON MONDALE VISIT BUT GAZETTE, FOR BENEFIT OF AMERICAN READER, MAKES VISIT PART OF "TOP LEVEL OFFENSIVE" IN WHICH HE WILL HOLD "STRATEGIC" TALKS. EDITORIAL NOTES LONDON MEETING PRELUDE TO RESUMPTION OF SHUTTLE AND SHOWS U.S. DETERMINED NOT TO LET ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE STALL PEACE PROCESS. END

SUMMARY.

- 1. REJECTION. PRESS JUNE 25 PROMINENTLY COVERS AMBASSADOR'S PREVIOUS DAY MEETING WITH SADAT. FOLLOWING MEETING SADAT TOLD REPORTERS EGYPT "FORMALLY" REJECTED ISRAELI REPLY TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS BECAUSE THEY COMPLETELY IGNORED PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA.
- 2. ALLEGED CARTER MESSAGE. SADAT NOTED HE RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM CARTER, AND HAD REPLIED (VIA AMBASSADOR). SAID CARTER MAKING "SERIOUS ATTEMPT" TO PUSH PEACE PROCESS BUT REFUSED BE SPECIFIC PENDING FURTHER EXCHANGES WITH THE U.S.
- 3. EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. SADAT INSTRUCTED FONMIN KAMEL TO PREPARE "INTEGRATED EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL," BASED ON SADAT SUGGESTION FOR TEMPORARY RETURN OF WEST BANK AND GAZA TO JORDAN AND EGYPT RESPECTIVELY. KAMEL LATER TOLD PRESS PROPOSAL WOULD BE PASSED OFFICIALLY TO USG IN "TWO DAYS."
- 4. LONDON MEETING. PRESS, QUOTING WASHINGTON SOURCES, CONTINUES SPECULATE ABOUT LONDON MEETING OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CHAIRED BY SECRETARY VANCE. ACCORDING GUMHURIYYA, "NOTHING YET DETERMINED" BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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AHRAM SUGGESTS MEETING WILL BE HELD JULY 9 AND "LONDON COULD BE THE CAPITAL." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FONMIN KAMEL REPORTEDLY INDICATED THERE "POSSIBILITY" OF LONDON MEETING.

- 5. ISRAEL ON DEFENSIVE. EDITORIALLY, PRESS CONTINUES STRESS ISRAELI ISOLATION AS RESULT BEGIN'S "NEGATIVE AND INTRANSIGENT POLICY," NOTING "SHARP DIFFERENCES" WITHIN ISRAELI CABINET AND AMONG ISRAEL'S TRADITIONAL FRIENDS IN U.S. INCLUDING SENATOR JAVITS. AHRAM SAYS BEGIN MUST "RECOGNIZE BASIC FACTS" OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUE: ACKNOWLEDGE LAWFUL RIGHTS PALESTINIANS, AND APPROVE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL. GUMHURIYYA NOTING ISRAEL "LOSING FRIENDS EVERY DAY" AS WELL AS SUPPORT WITHIN USG ASKS WHAT BEGIN EXPECTS TO ACCOMPLISH BY PERSISTING IN HIS HARD LINE POLICY.
- 6. MONDALE. ARABIC PRESS HAS ONLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF MONDALE JULY 3 VISIT OF "FEW HOURS." HOWEVER, ENGLISH LANGUAGE GAZETTE EDITORIAL NOTES MONDALE TRIP, ONCE SYMBOLIC, HAS NOW TURNED INTO "TOP LEVEL OFFENSIVE" WITH MONDALE HOLDING "STRATEGIC TALKS" WITH BOTH BEGIN

AND SADAT. EDITORIAL, OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT AMERICAN AUDIENCE, POSITS LONDON MEETING MAY BE FORE-RUNNER OF RETURN TO SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY. ACTIVITY READ AS DEMONSTRATION OF WASHINGTON DETERMINATION NOT TO LET ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE ENDANGER PEACE PROCESS.

7. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN PRESS CONTINUES TO BUILD EXPECTATIONS THAT U.S. WILL WORK MORE ACTIVELY TO BOOST PEACE PROCESS AND WILL DO WHATEVER NECESSARY TO GET NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED. EILTS

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